

Message Text

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ACTION SCSE-00

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P 281913Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 9398

UNCLAS MEXICO 9683

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CPRS, MX:(KARREN, JERRY)

SUBJECT: RELEASE OF STOLEN CAR

REF: STATE 250968

1. EMBASSY REGRETS MR. KARREN FAILED TO FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS PROVIDED TO HIM DURING HIS VISIT TO MEXICO ON MARCH 26, 1973, AT WHICH TIME HE WAS SPECIFICALLY INFORMED OF DOCUMENTS REQUIRED UNDER CONVENTION ON RECOVERY ON STOLEN VEHICLES. AS WAS SUGGESTED IN EMBASSY'S OM OF JULY 10, MR. KARREN HAS CERTAIN INCONSISTENCES WHICH CAN ONLY BE CLARIFIED UPON HIS SUBMISSION OF PROOF TO THE MEXICAN GOVERNMENT THAT HIS VEHICLE IS SUBJECT TO CLAIM UNDER THE CONVENTION, I.G. THAT IT WAS STOLEN IN THE UNITED STATES. FOR THE DEPARTMENT'S INFORMATION, MR. KARREN, DURING HIS VISIT TO THE EMBASSY ON MARCH 26, 1973, HINTED THAT HE HAD "ARRANGED" FOR A MEXICAN FRIEND TO POSSESS THE VEHICLE IN MEXICO WITH HIS PERMISSION, WHICH WOULD NOT MAKE IT SUBJECT TO CLAIM UNDER THE CONVENTION. FOR THIS REASON, EMBASSY CANNOT GUARANTEE VEHICLE WILL BE RETURNED TO KARREN AND CONSIDERS HIS CASE POSSIBLY FRAUDULENT. IF HE WISHES TO PURSUE MATTER, ALL DOCUMENTS PROPERLY CERTIFIED BY MEXICAN CONSUL WILL HAVE TO BE SUBMITTED.

2. EMBASSY REFERS TO ARTICLE ONE OF THE CONVENTION WHICH SPECIFICALLY STATES THAT "THE REQUEST OF THE EMBASSY SHALL BE ACCOMPANIED BY DOCUMENTS LEGALLY VALID IN THE UNITED STATES". ACCORDINGLY, DOCUMENTS SUBMITTED MUST BE CERTIFIED BY THE MEXICAN CONSUL IN ORDER TO BE LEGALLY VALID IN MEXICO. THE EMBASSY BELIEVES IT WOULD BE FUTILE TO PROTEST THE FEES CHARGED BY

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MEXICAN CONSULAR ESTABLISHMENTS IN THE UNITED STATES. WE

CHARGE \$2.50 FOR A SIMILAR SERVICE AND EMBASSY DOES NOT SEE HOW WE COULD, ON BASIS OF RECIPROCITY, RAISE OUR FEE TO \$8 JUST FOR MEXICAN CITIZENS. THEREFORE, WE HAVE NO LEVERAGE AND, BASED ON PAST EXPERIENCE, BELIEVE OUR PROTESTS WOULD BE IGNORED. EMBASSY WILL, HOWEVER, IF DEPARTMENT DESIRES, DELIVER NOTE PROESTING HIGH FEES AND ASKING THEY BE REDUCED TO LEVEL COMPARABLE TO OURS.

3. WITH REGARD TO EMBASSY EFFORTS TO LOCATE STOLEN VEHICLES

AND SECURE COOPERATION OF MEXICAN OFFICIALS FOR THEIR RETURN, THE DEPARTMENT'S ATTENTION IS CALLED TO OUR AIRGRAM A-579 OF NOVEMBER 16, 1973, A-610 OF DECEMBER 5, 1973, AND A-633 OF DECEMBER 18, 1973. AS WILL BE NOTED IN THESE AIRGRAMS, THE EMBASSY HAS MADE A CONCENTRATED EFFORT IN THIS FIELD WHICH INCLUDES ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JOINT MEXICAN-US WORKING COMMITTEE TO ATTACK THIS PROBLEM. AN OFFICIAL OF MEXICAN FOROFF STATES MORE VEHICLES HAVE BEEN RETURNED TO US UNDER THE CONVENTION IN 1973 THAN IN THE ENTIRE HISTORY OF CONVENTION WHICH DATES BACK TO 1936.
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